

USEFUL INFORMATION IF GOING TO LATVIA AS A TOURIST IN A PLEASURE CRAFT.



Topic	Comment
Demographic data (population/no of clubs/members/boats)	2 million inhabitants; 22 clubs and associations 2500 members in Latvian Sailing Union – www.sailinglatvia.lv 13 harbours - www.marinaslatvia.lv 8600 motor boats, 450 sailing boats
Currency	The Euro (previously the Lat LVL) 1LVL = 1.42 EUR
Formalities, Customs, passport control, visa	ISPS Code reporting is compulsory for ships of 300GT and 45m LOA and above. No passport control and custom clearance for EU flagged pleasure craft normally is required, while Immigration officials may ask for Crew List and identity documents and Customs may come on board for custom control. Visas required for residents of non-EU countries which have not entered into visa free agreement with Latvia. Please advise http://www.latvia.travel/en/visas-customs-and-entering-country ; Normal procedure is to report to marina office and they report further as required.
Banned substances	No medicines other than those as included in the Medical Chest according to International Medical Guide for Ships are allowed on board. The content of Medical Chest may be advised in web link http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2010/9789241547994_eng.pdf
Boat's documents required	Pleasure craft Registration or proof of ownership documents are required. Water police may ask for such documents. Proof of VAT payment is not required. Insurance of recreational craft in Latvian waters is on voluntary base, no regulations on that. Marinas offices may ask in case of an accident.
Insurance	Not compulsory – voluntary basis only.
Legislation certificate of competence	Certificates required for all operators of recreational craft registered in Latvia. Road Safety Directorate issues the certificates for motorboat operators valid for Latvian waters only and International Certificates for Operators of Pleasure Craft (ICC) for sailing yachts and motor-yachts up to 24m LOA. As to visiting sailors – Water Police may ask for such, but they are aware of the different requirements in other countries and may not be strict on this requirement.
Alcohol limits	Regulations provide the limit at 0,5/ml for professional sailors when navigating in inland waters and at sea. Heavy penalties for exceeding this limit when in inland waters, especially if over 1/ml. The limit at sea is provided for professional sailors on commercial ships, it is not clear whether this applies also for seafarers of recreational craft.
TSS, esp. new ones	No TSS areas are designated in Latvian waters, only recommended sea routes for commercial ships are provided.
Military exercise areas	Some are designated - in Riga Bay and North of Liepaja as marked on sea charts. Warnings given on NAVTEX and VHF broadcasts on Ch.16 – 71 by Latvian Coast Guard at 0703 and 1503 Local Time.
Major construction sites	No construction sites in open sea, only in ports
Windfarms /wave and tidal energy projects	Some windfarms are being planned at sea along the shore between Liepaja and Ventspils, construction not yet commenced.
Bridges	All bridges in Latvian ports are with low vertical clearance, only motorboats can pass them.
Habitats and other protected areas	Some nature protection areas have been designated along the Riga Bay coastline but not closed for recreational craft. Areas <u>prohibited for Navigation</u> as defined by geographical co-ordinates, where all vessels are not permitted to enter. The following areas prohibited for shipping and fishing: North from Port of Liepāja -56°33.42'N 20°59.72'E; 56°33.28'N 20°58.54'E; 56°33.8'N 20°58.76'E; 56°33.92'N 20°59.96'E; North from Papesciems - shipping is prohibited in the area enclosed by coastline and the lines connecting following points: 56°12.0'N 20°59.5'E; 56°12.0'N 20°53.0'E; 56°17.0'N 20°53.0'E; 56°17.0'N 20°59.2'E;
Flag traditions/ application of flag rules	Flying a courtesy flag is a norm when in Latvian waters. For the boat's ensign – times of hoisting and taking it down are not strict.
Weather forecast	Local forecasts available on VHF from VTS and Coast Guard. Please note Important Phone Numbers.

Harbours	Please see www.marinaslavia.lv where updated information may be obtained on Latvian marinas. New marina in Riga port in Kipsala area has been developed, commissioned in August 2013, available for visitors.
Swinging mooring buoys for pleasure yachts	No swinging mooring buoys are used in Latvian marinas, no lack of space for mooring alongside pontoons or from buoys with stern-to pontoon or jetty.
Anchoring and free access ashore	No anchoring is allowed in port areas. Access ashore from seaside could be restricted, subject to preliminary clearance in designated ports when coming from another country.
Good harbour manners	Normally it is not necessary to raft out in Latvian marinas as there are enough berthing places. Silence in late hours is normally expected from visiting boats.
Safety in harbours	Speed limits apply where marked. In commercial harbours the limit of 8 knots applies.
Rescue services	www.mrcc.lv -Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC Riga) - Coast Guard Emergency phone +371 67 323 103 ; +371 29 476 101; +371 67 082 070. "Riga Rescue Radio" is keeping constant watch on: MF 2182 kHz, VHF channel 16, DSC MMSI number 002750100 on MF 2187.5 kHz and VHF channel 70
Pyrotechnics	No national rules are applied for utilization of outdated pyrotechnics
Staying during the winter	Winter storage ashore is possible in some marinas, Mersrags is possible. Cradles could be a problem.
Antifouling regulations	No regulation for recreational craft up to 24m LOA.
Fuel availability	No fuel berths are provided in Latvian marinas, except in Pavilosta and Latvijas Jahta (approx. 5NM north of Rīga on river Daugava). Fuel station in Rīga port in approx. position of 55°56.8'N, 24°08.8'E proceeding upstream on the river Daugava, passing 4 bridges with minimum vertical clearance of 7m may be used for motorboats. All diesel fuels, obtained from petrol stations contain 5% biodiesel, except in winter time.
Gas availability	Gas bottles may be obtained from petrol stations and marine shops (ask marina office).
Pump out stations for sewage and oily water	Latvia formally applies the HELCOM recommendation on sewage, there is a provision in Cabinet of Ministers regulations for recreational craft to have holding tanks. Pumping sewage ashore service in marinas is not provided.
Public transport	Bus service covers most of the country; train traffic not so, but available to Tallinn and Moscow, also local electric trains.
Shopping hours	Supermarkets generally open from 0800-2200, all weekdays. Some 24 hours. Smaller shops open generally from 1000-1730, Monday to Saturday. Purchase of alcohol is prohibited after 2200 hrs.
Important phone numbers, home pages and useful links	www.mrcc.lv - Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC Riga) - Coast Guard Emergency phone +371 67 323 103 ; +371 29 476 101; +371 67 082 070. "Riga Rescue Radio" is keeping constant watch on: MF 2182 kHz, VHF channel 16, DSC MMSI number 002750100 on MF 2187.5 kHz and VHF channel 70 All ships shall keep permanent radio watch on VHF channel 16 when in Latvian waters and also when approaching the Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) areas of Latvian ports: Riga – channel 9, Ventspils – channel 9 and Liepaja – channel 11. General Emergency telephone number in Latvia – 112 Maritime Safety Information (MSI) is transmitted by MRCC on VHF channel 71 with preliminary notification on VHF channels 70 (DSC) and 16. Broadcasting is performed in English and Latvian languages in the following order: MSI (Navigational Warnings first followed by Weather Forecast) is transmitted at 0703hrs and 1503hrs Local Time (UTC +3 winter, UTC +2 summer). Gale Warnings and Warnings on other Dangerous Meteorological Phenomena are transmitted on receipt, and repeated at 3 minutes and 33 minutes past each hour. www.lja.lv - Maritime Administration of Latvia http://www.lhd.lv/ATONLV/pub/301 - Notices to Mariners, Shipping Regime www.lj.lv/mapshops - Navigation charts
Practical advice	Latvia is rather relaxed on keeping to strict formalities. Alcohol limit when navigating a boat could be adhered strictly. Cash money from cash points may be obtained in all ports, but better to have some small cash at hand. Sailing season is short and sometimes rather rainy, so take good sailing clothes with you.

BSCN/Useful Information/LAT-GS

DATE: March, 2015